

employees from 25 to 51. Moreover, the firm recently added 25 additional employees in January of this year to its new location in Pittsfield. This remarkable expansion provides high-quality jobs for Mainers, which is especially vital after the closing of Global Contract Services in Pittsfield, leaving 65 employees without jobs.

With cutting-edge technology, Argo is a leader in call center service and support. The company prides itself on having the best integrated system in the industry that is customized to handle a vast array of clients. Moreover, Argo has always firmly believed that having dedicated professionals as part of the Argo family helps direct the path of any given project. There is a pervading philosophy in the telecommunications, marketing, and customer service industry that retaining a current customer is easier than finding a new one. Indeed, customer care is a top priority, especially for small businesses competing with larger companies with more resources and cheaper products. This quality investment in customer service has been a key component in Argo's success.

Further, Jason understands the importance of an engaged staff and giving back to the local community. He consistently works to increase company morale and provide an atmosphere where people enjoy coming into work every day with a positive attitude. As a dedicated part of the Lewistown-Auburn community, this company also donated to Sand Castle Pre-School in Lewistown which assists disadvantaged youths.

Small businesses drive the American economy by consistently creating jobs in the private sector while spurring investment in their local community. Argo's success and expansion is a glowing example of why these firms are so critical to America's economy. It is innovative entrepreneurs like Jason Levesque who are going to lead us out of our economic morass by creating jobs and opportunity all across our Nation. Despite these difficult economic times, he has clearly fostered a winning strategy, and I congratulate him and everyone at Argo Marketing for their dedication to excellence and for maintaining an impressive record of job creation in central Maine. I offer my best wishes for their future endeavors.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were placed on the Executive Calendar under Privileged Nominations.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:41 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3298. An act to establish the position of Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3309. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3298. An act to establish the position of Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3309. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2682. An act to provide end user exemptions from certain provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2779. An act to exempt inter-affiliate swaps from certain regulatory requirements put in place by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

H.R. 4014. An act to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act with respect to information provided to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate announced that on today, March 28, 2012, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2038. An act to prohibit Members of Congress and employees of Congress from using nonpublic information derived from their official positions for personal benefit, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5501. A communication from the Vice President of Government Affairs and Cor-

porate Communications, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Amtrak's Executive Level 1 salary for 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5502. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XB014) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5503. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod for American Fisheries Act Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XB028) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5504. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XB010) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5505. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Closure" (RIN0648-XA989) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5506. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Sub-ACL (Annual Catch Limit) Harvested for Management Area 2" (RIN0648-XB001) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5507. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Sub-ACL (Annual Catch Limit) Harvested for Management Area 1B" (RIN0648-XA971) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5508. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Adjustment to 2012 Annual Catch Limits" (RIN0648-BB50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5509. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries